

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed January 28, 2003. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2 – 7, 9 – 18 and 21 - 26 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have directly amended claims 2 – 5, 9 - 12, 15 and 21, have added claims 22 - 26, and have canceled claims 1, 8, 19 and 20 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claim 1, 8, 19 and 20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over *Motegi* in view of *Pauschinger*. As mentioned before, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 8, 11, 19 and 20 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the rejection of the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections are no longer proper.

With respect to claim 4, Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite:

4. A printing system for use with a workstation having a first code entry device, the workstation being configured to transmit print data for printing, the first code entry device being configured to receive first coding information from a user, said printing system comprising:

a printer configured to communicatively couple with the workstation and having a second code entry device, said second code entry device being configured to receive second coding information from the user, ***said printer being configured to print the print data in response to correlating the first coding information received at the first code entry device with said second coding information received at said second code entry device;***

a user interface configured to communicate with the workstation, said user interface having a secured-disable mode and a secure-enable mode such that, in said secure-enable mode, the workstation is enabled to receive the first coding information, and ***in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.***

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, does not teach or otherwise suggest at least the features emphasized above in claim 4. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references are legally deficient for rendering obvious at least the combination of “said printer being configured to print the print data in response to correlating the first coding information received at the first code entry device with said second coding information received at said second code entry device,” and “in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is no longer proper and that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Since dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 23 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 4, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Moreover, each of these claims recites additional features/limitations which may serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 11, Applicants have amended claim 11 to recite:

11. A printing security system for use with a workstation and a printer, the workstation being configured to communicatively couple with the printer, the workstation being configured to transmit print data to the printer for printing, said printing security system comprising:

a first code entry device configured to communicatively couple with the workstation, receive first coding information from the user, and provide the first coding information to the workstation; and

a second code entry device configured to communicatively couple with the printer, receive second coding information from the user, and provide the second coding information to the printer such that the printer is enabled to print the print data in response to said first coding information received at said first code entry device corresponding to said second coding information received at said second code entry device;

a user interface configured to communicate with the workstation, said user interface having a secure-disable mode and a secure-enable mode such that, ***in said secure-enable mode, the workstation is enabled to receive said first coding information, and in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.***

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, does not teach or otherwise suggest at least the features emphasized above in claim 11. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references are legally deficient for rendering obvious at least the combination of “in said secure-enable mode, the workstation is enabled to receive said first coding information, and in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is no longer proper and that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Since dependent claims 9, 10, 12 and 24 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Moreover, each of these claims recites additional features/limitations which may serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 21, Applicants have amended claim 21 to recite:

21. A computer readable medium having a computer program for providing secure printing between a workstation and a printer, the workstation being configured to transmit print data to the printer for printing, said computer readable medium comprising:

logic configured to receive first coding information, at the workstation, from a user;

logic configured to receive second coding information, provided at the printer, from the user;

logic configured to compare the first coding information with the second coding information; and

logic configured to enable printing of the print data at the printer if the first coding information corresponds to the second coding information, wherein the logic configured to receive first coding information comprises:

a first code segment configured to provide a user interface at the workstation, the user interface having a secure-disable mode and a secure-enable mode such that, ***in the secure-enable mode, the workstation is enabled to receive the first coding information, and in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.***

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art of record, either individually or in combination, does not teach or otherwise suggest at least the features emphasized above in claim 21. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references are legally deficient for rendering obvious at least the combination of “in the secure-enable mode, the workstation is enabled to receive the first coding information, and in the secure-disable mode, the workstation is enabled to transmit print data to the printer for printing and the printer prints the print data without receiving the second coding information at the second code entry device.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is no longer proper and that claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Since dependent claim 26 incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 21, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 26 also is in condition for allowance. Moreover, claim 26 recites additional features/limitations which may serve as an independent basis for patentability.

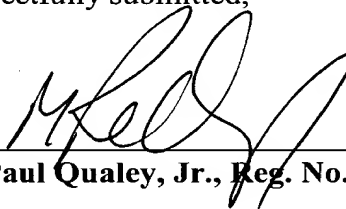
Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 2 - 7, 9 - 18 and 21 - 26 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

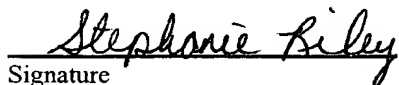
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on 4/28/03.


Signature